

REMARKS

In response to a telephone call from the Examiner, Mr. Zimmer, applicants enclose a translation of applicants' Japanese priority Application JP 2003-122951 filed in Japan on April 25, 2003, together with a Declaration by the Translator. Applicants submit that the present claims are entitled to an effective filing date of April 25, 2003 in view of the submission of the translation.

During the telephone call, the Examiner stated that the Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 filed on November 20, 2007 overcame the outstanding rejections, but that in updating his prior art search, he became aware of two new references which he believes can be used to reject the claims on the grounds of obviousness.

In particular, the Examiner stated that he could reject the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 on the grounds of obviousness over WO 02/085985 (corresponding to U.S. 7,297,743) having a publication date of October 31, 2002 in view of WO 03/035755 (corresponding to U.S. 2005/004327) having a publication date of May 1, 2003.

The Examiner further stated that such a rejection can be overcome by submitting a verified translation of applicants' Japanese priority document, if the priority document supports the claims of the present application, since the Japanese priority document has a filing date of April 25, 2003, which is earlier than the May 1, 2003 publication date of WO 03/035755.

In view of the submission of the translation of the priority document, applicants submit that WO 03/035755 cannot be used against the present claims.

Applicants note that they have amended claim 7 to make it clear that the hydrolyzable group referred to in claim 7 is a hydrolyzable silyl group.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

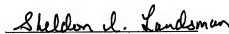
Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 31, 2008